

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2012 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 21
Kuskokwim River Subdistrict 1-A and Subdistrict 1-B to open for Commercial Salmon
Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence and commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Management Area.

Subdistrict 1-A

Subdistrict 1-A within District 1 will open to commercial salmon fishing for 4 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 30, 2012.

Processing capacity for this commercial fishing period is limited. Fishermen are reminded to register with Kuskokwim Seafoods (543-5700) prior to fishing.

The hours for subsistence closures adjacent to periods of commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim River are 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing. Therefore, from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 30, subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River will be closed from Bogus Creek downstream to a line between Oscarville and Napaskiak.

Preliminary harvest information from the July 26 commercial period in Subdistrict 1-A was 3,255 chum; 1,545 coho; 31 sockeye; and 11 Chinook salmon from 53 permit holders.

Subdistrict 1-B

The Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B, that portion of District 1 from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles downstream of the Johnson River to the lower boundary of District 1 defined as a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut will open to commercial salmon fishing for 6 hours from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

The Upper Section of Subdistrict 1-B, that portion of District 1 downstream of regulatory markers located at Bethel to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles downstream of Johnson River, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 4 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

The hours for subsistence closures adjacent to periods of commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim River are 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing. Therefore, from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River will be closed from the upper end of Straight Slough downstream to the mouth, defined by a line from Apokak Slough to the southern-most tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut.

Preliminary harvest information from the July 27 commercial period in Subdistrict 1-B was 2,856 coho; 1,832 chum; and 97 sockeye salmon from 138 permit holders. In the lower river the chum salmon run is nearing the end and the coho salmon run is building.

Fish processors have verbally agreed not to purchase Chinook salmon harvested during commercial openings. Any Chinook salmon caught must be retained for subsistence or personal use. Fish retained for subsistence or personal use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel ADF&G office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this news release:

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